

CLAIMS

1           1.    A method for custom manufacturing decorative, cast  
2 stonework, comprising:  
3           receiving an order, wherein the order at least comprises  
4 one drawing, and wherein the at least one drawing at least  
5 comprises at least one part of a plurality of parts that  
6 comprise a unit;  
7           storing the order;  
8           referencing the at least one first part to a database of  
9 units and parts, wherein the least one first part number is  
10 associated with the at least one first part;  
11          determining if a suitable unused part of a plurality of  
12 unused parts exists within an inventory of unused parts by an  
13 associated part identifier, wherein each unused part of the  
14 plurality unused parts have part identifiers associated  
15 therewith;  
16          if no suitable part exists in the inventory of unused  
17 parts, then determining if a mold for the at least one part  
18 exists in an inventory of molds;  
19          if no mold exists in the inventory of molds, then  
20 manufacturing or buying a mold for the at least one first  
21 part;

22       if a mold exists in the inventory of molds, then  
23       determining if the mold is available;  
24       retrieving the mold, once available, manufactured, or  
25       bought; and  
26       casting the at least one first part with the mold that  
27       has been retrieved.

1       2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of  
2       determining if a suitable unused part of the plurality of  
3       unused parts exists within the inventory of unused parts  
4       further comprises:

5       searching part identifiers associated with each of the  
6       unused parts of the plurality of unused parts for a part  
7       identifier that at least matches the at least one first part  
8       identifier associated with the at least one first part to  
9       determine if the suitable part identifier exists within the  
10      inventory of unused parts;

11      determining if the suitable unused part has correct  
12      dimensions; and

13      if the suitable unused part is too large, then cutting  
14      the suitable unused part to the correct dimensions.

1        3.    The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of  
2 determining if the mold is available further comprises:  
3        retrieving a schedule of use for the mold; and  
4        determining periods of time when the mold is in use for  
5 other projects.

1        4.    The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further  
2 comprises:  
3        if the mold is not available, determining if the mold  
4 exists in a mold inventory; and  
5        if the mold does not exist in a mold inventory,  
6 manufacturing or buying the mold.

1        5.    A computer program product for custom manufacturing  
2 decorative, cast stonework, the computer program product  
3 having a medium with a computer program embodied thereon, the  
4 computer program comprising:  
5        computer code for receiving an order, wherein the order  
6 at least comprises one drawing, and wherein the at least one  
7 drawing at least comprises at least one part of a plurality of  
8 parts that comprise a unit;  
9        computer code for storing the order;

10 computer code for referencing the at least one first part  
11 to a database of units and parts, wherein the least one first  
12 part number is associated with the at least one first part;  
13 computer code for determining if a suitable unused part  
14 of a plurality of unused parts exists within an inventory of  
15 unused parts by an associated part identifier, wherein each  
16 unused part of the plurality unused parts have part  
17 identifiers associated therewith;  
18 if no suitable part exists in the inventory of unused  
19 parts, then computer code for determining if a mold for the at  
20 least one part exists in an inventory of molds;  
21 if no mold exists in the inventory of molds, then  
22 computer code for manufacturing or computer code for buying a  
23 mold for the at least one first part;  
24 if a mold exists in the inventory of molds, then computer  
25 code for determining if the mold is available;  
26 computer code for retrieving the mold, once available,  
27 manufactured, or bought; and  
28 computer code for casting the at least one first part  
29 with the mold that has been retrieved.

1 6. The computer program product of Claim 5, wherein the  
2 computer code for determining if a suitable unused part of the

3 plurality of unused parts exists within the inventory of  
4 unused parts further comprises:

5 computer code for searching part identifiers associated  
6 with each of the unused parts of the plurality of unused parts  
7 for a part identifier that at least matches the at least one  
8 first part identifier associated with the at least one first  
9 part to determine if the suitable part identifier exists  
10 within the inventory of unused parts;

11 computer code for determining if the suitable unused part  
12 has correct dimensions; and

13 if the suitable unused part is too large, then computer  
14 code for cutting the suitable unused part to the correct  
15 dimensions.

1 7. The computer program product of Claim 5, wherein the  
2 computer code for determining if the mold is available further  
3 comprises:

4 computer code for retrieving a schedule of use for the  
5 mold; and

6 computer code for determining periods of time when the  
7 mold is in use for other projects.

1        8.    The computer program product of Claim 5, wherein the  
2 computer program product further comprises:

3        if the mold is not available, computer code for  
4 determining if the mold exists in a mold inventory; and

5        if the mold does not exist in a mold inventory, computer  
6 code for manufacturing or computer code for buying the mold.

1        9.    A processor for custom manufacturing decorative,  
2 cast stonework, the processor including computer program  
3 comprising:

4        computer code for receiving an order, wherein the order  
5 at least comprises one drawing, and wherein the at least one  
6 drawing at least comprises at least one part of a plurality of  
7 parts that comprise a unit;

8        computer code for storing the order;

9        computer code for referencing the at least one first part  
10 to a database of units and parts, wherein the least one first  
11 part number is associated with the at least one first part;

12       computer code for determining if a suitable unused part  
13 of a plurality of unused parts exists within an inventory of  
14 unused parts by an associated part identifier, wherein each

15 unused part of the plurality unused parts have part  
16 identifiers associated therewith;

17 if no suitable part exists in the inventory of unused  
18 parts, then computer code for determining if a mold for the at  
19 least one part exists in an inventory of molds;

20 if no mold exists in the inventory of molds, then  
21 computer code for manufacturing or computer code for buying a  
22 mold for the at least one first part;

23 if a mold exists in the inventory of molds, then computer  
24 code for determining if the mold is available;

25 computer code for retrieving the mold, once available,  
26 manufactured, or bought; and

27 computer code for casting the at least one first part  
28 with the mold that has been retrieved.

1 10. The computer code of Claim 9, wherein the computer  
2 code for determining if a suitable unused part of the  
3 plurality of unused parts exists within the inventory of  
4 unused parts further comprises:

5 computer code for searching part identifiers associated  
6 with each of the unused parts of the plurality of unused parts  
7 for a part identifier that at least matches the at least one  
8 first part identifier associated with the at least one first

9 part to determine if the suitable part identifier exists  
10 within the inventory of unused parts;

11 computer code for determining if the suitable unused part  
12 has correct dimensions; and

13 if the suitable unused part is too large, then computer  
14 code for cutting the suitable unused part to the correct  
15 dimensions.

1 11. The computer code of Claim 9, wherein the computer  
2 code for determining if the mold is available further  
3 comprises:

4 computer code for retrieving a schedule of use for the  
5 mold; and

6 computer code for determining periods of time when the  
7 mold is in use for other projects.

1 12. The computer code of Claim 9, wherein the computer  
2 code further comprises:

3 if the mold is not available, computer code for  
4 determining if the mold exists in a mold inventory; and

5 if the mold does not exist in a mold inventory, computer  
6 code for manufacturing or computer code for buying the mold.



1        13. An apparatus for custom manufacturing decorative,  
2 cast stonework, comprising:

3        means for receiving an order, wherein the order at least  
4 comprises one drawing, and wherein the at least one drawing at  
5 least comprises at least one part of a plurality of parts that  
6 comprise a unit;

7        means for storing the order;

8        means for referencing the at least one first part to a  
9 database of units and parts, wherein the least one first part  
10 number is associated with the at least one first part;

11       means for determining if a suitable unused part of a  
12 plurality of unused parts exists within an inventory of unused  
13 parts by an associated part identifier, wherein each unused  
14 part of the plurality unused parts have part identifiers  
15 associated therewith;

16       if no suitable part exists in the inventory of unused  
17 parts, then means for determining if a mold for the at least  
18 one part exists in an inventory of molds;

19       if no mold exists in the inventory of molds, then means  
20 for manufacturing or means for buying a mold for the at least  
21 one first part;

22           if a mold exists in the inventory of molds, then means  
23   for determining if the mold is available;  
24           means   for   retrieving   the   mold,   once   available,  
25   manufactured, or bought; and  
26           means for casting the at least one first part with the  
27   mold that has been retrieved.

1           14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the means for  
2   determining if a suitable unused part of the plurality of  
3   unused parts exists within the inventory of unused parts  
4   further comprises:

5           means for searching part identifiers associated with each  
6   of the unused parts of the plurality of unused parts for a  
7   part identifier that at least matches the at least one first  
8   part identifier associated with the at least one first part to  
9   determine if the suitable part identifier exists within the  
10   inventory of unused parts;

11           means for determining if the suitable unused part has  
12   correct dimensions; and

13           if the suitable unused part is too large, then means for  
14   cutting the suitable unused part to the correct dimensions.

1        15. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the means for  
2 determining if the mold is available further comprises:  
3        retrieving a schedule of use for the mold; and  
4        determining periods of time when the mold is in use for  
5 other projects.

1        16. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the apparatus  
2 further comprises:  
3        if the mold is not available, means for determining if  
4 the mold exists in a mold inventory; and  
5        if the mold does not exist in a mold inventory, means for  
6 manufacturing or means for buying the mold.